Abstract Submitted to the International Conference on Strongly Correlated Electron Systems University of Michigan, Ann Arbor August 6-10, 2001

Cr-Doping Effect on the Perovskite (Nd, Sr)MnO₃ Single Crystals

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The effect of Cr-doping on the Mn site in the perovskite $Nd_{1-y}Sr_yMnO_3$ (y=0.33, 0.5 and 0.55) single crystals grown by the floating zone method has been studied by using the magnetization, magnetoresistance, thermal expansion and magnetostriction measurements. The material with y=0.33 shows a transition from paramagnetic semiconducting state (PMS) to ferromagnetic metallic state (FMM) at T_C =250 K. Cr-doping up to 6 at.% enhances negative colossal magnetoresistance near T_C . The material with y=0.5 shows successive transitions from PMS to FMM at T_C =260 K and then to antiferromagnetic insulating state (AFMI) with charge ordering at T_N =170 K. The application of 7T magnetic field suppresses the AFMI state keeping the FMM state down to 120K. Cr-doping of 2 at.% completely suppresses the AFMI state keeping the FMM state down to the lowest temperature (10K) measured. The material with y=0.55 shows a transition from PMS to antiferromagnetic state (AFM) at T_N =230 K. Cr-doping of 10 at.% completely changes the AFM state to the FMM state. It is noticeable that small amount of Cr-doping stabilizes the FMM state in all cases, which is probably caused by provoking the double exchange interaction between Mn ions.